



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 650

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6797

House of Representatives, April 15, 2015

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-34 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) The practice of naturopathy means the science, art and practice
4 of healing by natural methods as recognized by the Council of
5 Naturopathic Medical Education and that comprises diagnosis,
6 prevention and treatment of disease and health optimization by
7 stimulation and support of the body's natural healing processes, as
8 approved by the State Board of Naturopathic Examiners, with the
9 consent of the Commissioner of Public Health, and shall include: (1)
10 [counseling] Counseling; (2) the practice of the [mechanical and
11 material] physical sciences of healing as follows: [The mechanical
12 sciences such as mechanotherapy] Corrective exercise therapy for
13 rehabilitation, articular manipulation, [corrective and orthopedic
14 gymnastics,] physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, electrotherapy and
15 phototherapy; and the [material] sciences such as nutrition, dietetics,

16 phytotherapy, treatment by natural substances and external
 17 applications; (3) ordering diagnostic tests and other diagnostic
 18 procedures as such tests and procedures relate to the practice of
 19 [mechanical and material] the physical sciences of healing as described
 20 in subdivision (2) of this subsection; (4) ordering medical devices and
 21 durable medical equipment; and (5) removing ear wax, spirometry,
 22 tuberculosis testing and venipuncture for blood testing.

23 (b) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, "natural
 24 substances" means substances that are not narcotic substances, as
 25 defined in subdivision (30) of section 21a-240, do not require the
 26 written or oral prescription of a licensed practitioner to be dispensed
 27 and are only administered orally.

28 Sec. 2. (*Effective October 1, 2015*) On or before February 1, 2016, the
 29 Department of Public Health, in consultation with the State Board of
 30 Naturopathic Examiners, established pursuant to section 20-35 of the
 31 general statutes, shall submit a report, in accordance with the
 32 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
 33 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 34 relating to public health concerning the scope of practice for
 35 naturopaths. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to,
 36 recommendations to (1) expand the scope of practice for naturopaths
 37 to include prescribing, dispensing and administering certain drugs,
 38 and (2) corresponding educational and examination requirements or
 39 other qualifications to allow for such expansion of the naturopaths'
 40 scope of practice.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	20-34
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), "include (1) counseling" was changed to "include: (1) [counseling] Counseling" for conformity with statutory format.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill has no fiscal impact to the Department of Public Health (DPH) as it makes technical changes and requires DPH to report to the Public Health Committee on naturopathic physicians' scope of practice.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6797*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill modifies the scope of practice of naturopathy by including the practice of “physical sciences of healing” instead of “mechanical and material sciences.” It adds corrective exercise therapy for rehabilitation to the types of therapies naturopathic physicians may practice and removes (1) orthopedic gymnastics and (2) mechanotherapy.

Existing law already allows naturopathic physicians to practice (1) articular manipulation, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, and phototherapy and (2) sciences such as nutrition, dietetics, phytotherapy, treatment with natural substances, and external applications.

Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Public Health, in consultation with the State Board of Naturopathic Examiners, to report to the Public Health Committee on naturopathic physicians’ scope of practice. The report must include recommendations to (1) expand their scope of practice to include prescribing, dispensing, and administering certain drugs and (2) corresponding education and examination requirements or other qualifications to allow for this expansion.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Naturopathy***

The law defines “naturopathy” as the science, art, and practice of

healing that comprises diagnosing, preventing, and treating diseases and optimizing health by stimulating and supporting the body's natural healing processes. These natural healing methods must be approved by the State Board of Naturopathic Examiners, with the consent of the public health commissioner (CGS § 20-34).

Scope of Practice

In addition to the therapies described in the bill, existing law allows naturopathic physicians to (1) provide counseling; (2) order certain diagnostic tests and procedures; (3) order medical devices and durable medical equipment; and (4) perform ear wax removal, spirometry (i.e., breathing testing), tuberculosis testing, and venipuncture for blood testing.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/27/2015)